

XXXIII. TWO NEW SPECIES OF
SCOLOPENDRIDAE.

By F. H. GRAVELY, *M.Sc.*, Assistant Superintendent,
Indian Museum.

The Indian Museum collection of Scolopendridae has increased very rapidly since it was catalogued after being examined by Dr. Kraepelin two years ago (*Rec. Ind. Mus.*, v, 1910, pp. 161-166). In spite of this, very few additional species have been added to it, and the new locality records for the most part only seem to show that our knowledge of the distribution of such species as are easily obtained is already complete. Such records as extend the known range of any species all happen to refer to species obtained by Mr. Kemp during the Abor Expedition, and have been incorporated in the special report on the zoological results of that expedition (*Rec. Ind. Mus.*, vol. viii). Two out of the four undescribed species added to our collection since it was returned to us by Dr. Kraepelin were also obtained in the Abor Country, and have been described in the same report. In the present paper the two remaining species and one subspecies are dealt with.

Subfamily *OTOSTIGMINAE*.

Genus *Rhysida*.

R. ceylonicus, n. sp.

A single specimen was found under a stone in damp mud in the jungle on the hill above the experiment station at Peradeniya, Ceylon, at an altitude of about 2000 feet. Before it was finally caught it escaped into a small stream down which it swam with lateral undulating movements of the body, diving under the water to hide beneath stones that were partially immersed. This is the only centipede I have seen under such conditions, but whether or not it is normally amphibious I am unable to say.

Description.—Length (excluding appendages) 57 mm. Antennae 20-jointed, all the joints longer than broad, the distal ones from two to four times longer, the first two smooth and hairless throughout, the third with a ventral pilose patch distally, the rest pilose throughout. Dorsal surface somewhat slate-coloured, segments 4-19 with a pair of very short longitudinal grooves close to the posterior margin; no segments grooved more extensively than this except marginally; more or less complete marginal grooves present from about the sixth or eighth segment, those on

the posterior segments being better developed than those further forwards; strong marginal ridges present on the twenty-first segment only. Ventral surface paler than dorsal. Sternocoxal plate armed on each side with five teeth of which the three innermost are very close together, the fourth distinctly separated from the third, and the fifth somewhat more distant from the fourth, behind these teeth the defining lines meet in an angle of about 120° ; sterna of body segments not grooved except the last of them which is vaguely grooved behind in the middle line; this last sternum is nearly as broad in front as it is long, narrower behind, with its posterior margin very broadly V-shaped, forming a distinct right angle with the oblique lateral margins on each side. Pseudopleural processes bluntly conical, with a pair of terminal teeth, without dorsal teeth, and with a minute side tooth on one side only in my one specimen. First pair of legs armed with 1 (ventral) claw spur and 1 (anterior) tarsal spur; second, third and fourth pair with 1 (anterior) tibial spur, 2 tarsal and 2 claw spurs, fifth to eighteen pairs with 2 tarsal and 2 claw spurs, nineteenth with 1 tarsal and 2 claw spurs, twentieth with 2 claw spurs only; anal legs also with 2 claw spurs only, femora armed only with a single minute tooth on the (outer ?) side.

This species is very near *R. brasiliensis*, Kraepelin, but differs in that the grooves behind the teeth of the sternocoxal plate meet not in a straight line but in an angle of about 120° .

Subfamily SCOLOPENDRINAE.

Genus *Pseudocryptops*, Poc.

Members of this genus, which has hitherto been recorded only from Perim Island, can be recognized at sight by their short stumpy antennae and enormously thick anal legs.

P. agharkari, n. sp.

This sluggish little centipede is not uncommon under stones in jungle at Taloshi and Helvak in the Koyna Valley of the W. Ghats, Satara Dist., Bombay Presidency, at an altitude about 2000 feet.

Description.—Length up to 29 mm. Antennae 17-18-jointed. Colour dark reddish purple in life, various paler shades of greyish or brownish tints in spirit. Head rounded in front, more or less broadly grooved in the middle line in front, not produced. First segment vaguely grooved in the middle line, segments 2-4 usually with more or less incomplete, 5-20 with complete and very strongly marked pair of longitudinal grooves, but without marginal grooves or ridges; anal segment very short, grooved in the middle line, marginal ridges present, posterior margin convex. Sternocoxal plate armed with three teeth on each side of the middle line which is strongly grooved. Sterna of segments 2-20 marked

throughout with a pair of longitudinal grooves; sternum of anal segment almost semi-circular in outline, vaguely grooved in the middle. Femur of poison-jaws armed with a distinct tooth. All legs armed with a pair of claw-spurs except the anal legs which are entirely unarmed. This species differs from *P. walkeri*, the only species previously described, in the shape of the head. The antennae too are usually as long as the head and first segment together, but this depends purely on the extent to which they are expanded or contracted at the time of death. Specimens with contracted antennae usually have the back of the head drawn under the margin of the tergum of the first segment, whereas the others do not.

***P. agharkari* subsp. *singhbhumensis*, nov.**

This subspecies occurs under stones in jungle on the hills near Chakardharpur in the Singhbhum district of Chota Nagpur, but is far from common there. It differs from the Koyna Valley form in colour only, being grey with a dark line down the middle of the back between the longitudinal grooves in life, and blue (ultimately brown?) still with a dark middle line, in spirit.
